

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8414

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, AR

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PERON MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT

REFS: A. STATE 217626, B. BA 7876

1. WHEN I SAW FONMIN VIGNES ON ANOTHER MATTER AT 1715 NOV 16, HE RAISED AGAIN THE SUBJECT OF PERON'S VISIT TO US TO ADDRESS UNGA AND COLLATERAL POSSIBILITY OF MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS PERON AND NIXON. HE SAID MATTER HAD GOTTEN SOMEWHAT OUT OF HAND IN LOCAL PRESS, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS EQUAL OF US PRESS IN PERSISTENCE AND OVERPLAY. HE DID ADMIT THAT HE HAD MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF TRIP TO ONE REPORTER.

2. I ASKED IF FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON TRIP. VIGNES SAID PRESIDENT WOULD DECIDE BETWEEN NOW AND NOV 19. VIGNES ADDED HE IS PROPOSING DEC 7 FOR SPEECH TO UNGA SINCE THIS WOULD LEAVE SUBSEQUENT WEEKEND FOR POSSIBLE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND ALSO FOR A BRIEF REST BEFORE MAKING LONG RETURN FLIGHT.

3. VIGNES CONTINUED THAT MEETING WITH NIXON WAS IN HIS OPINION ESSENTIAL TO FULL SUCCESS OF TRIP. IF PERON WERE TO GO TO US WITHOUT SEEING NIXON IT WOULD CREATE A DEFINITE NEGATIVE IMPRESSION, NOT ONLY AS REGARDS US/ARGENTINE RELATIONS BUT AS REGARDS PERON'S BROADER INTERNATIONAL IMAGE.

4. VIGNES SAID HE UNDERSTOOD DELICACY OF ARRANGING APPROPRIATE CONFIDENTIAL

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SITE FOR MEETING. ON ONE HAND PERON DID NOT WISH TO GO TO WASHINGTON WITH ALL THE PROTOCOL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS THAT WOULD INVOLVE. ON THE OTHER HAND HE UNDERSTOOD PERFECTLY THAT PRESIDENT NIXON COULD NOT GO TO NEW YORK JUST TO MEET WITH PERON.

HE RECALLED OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION AND SAID IT WOULD BE IDEAL IF MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED IN KEY BISCAYNE SINCE THIS WOULD BE ON THE WAY BACK TO ARGENTINA AND WOULD ALSO BE A GOOD PLACE FOR PERON TO REST. HE ASKED ABOUT CAMP DAVID AND I TOLD HIM WHERE IT WAS LOCATED WITH REFERENCE TO WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK AND MENTIONED SEVERAL COMMERCIAL AND MILITARY AIRFIELDS IN THE VICINITY OF CAMP DAVID WHICH COULD ACCOMMODATE THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT.

5. I DREW FROM PARA 2 REFTEL A, SAYING THAT ONCE PRESIDENT PERON HAS FIRMED UP HIS PLANS WE WILL BE HAPPY TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH THE FINAL DECISION DEPENDING ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S COMMITMENTS AND OTHER RELATIVE FACTORS. VIGNES SAID THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME AS SOON AS HE HAD DEFINITE WORD ON THE TRIP.
KREBS

CONFIDENTIAL

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